(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on above section is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Disruption of Rail Traffic

4122. SHRI ANIL BASU :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been frequent disruption of rail traffic due to derailment of passenger and goods trains during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and location-wise;

(c) the number of trains cancelled due to such traffic disruption and details of loss of life and material suffered as a result thereof in each case alongwith the details of cancellation or diversion of rail traffic during the last three years;

(d) whether the poor maintenance of rolling stock, locomotives and the railway tracks are mainly responsible for such frequent derailments and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper maintenance of the rolling stocks and particularly the railway tracks as a safeguard against any derailment of passenger and goods trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Railway zone-wise break-uip of derailments on Indian Railways during the last three years namely, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under :

Rly.	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CR	41	46	43
ER	37	28	24
NR	43	54	33
NER	25	16	21
NFR	40	49	20
SR	36	31	35
SCR	47	39	27
SER	91	84	62
WR	41	41	31
Total	401	388	296

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Negotiations with Manila

4123. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned, "DoT team to leave for Manila to negotiate Rs. 595 crore ADB loan," appearing in "Indian Express" dated October 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether DoT team has been able to negotiate and

(d) if so, the details of the teams and conditions and the projects likely to be undertaken under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. DOT Team has gone to Manila on 16.10.96 to negotiate for getting ADB loan for the Rural Telecommunication Project.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Team alongwith the officers of Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have been able to negotiate this loan and the Bank has approved a loan of Rs. 400 crores for project of DOT for providing Village Public Telephones in 31,788 villages of 42 districts of Uttar Pradesh (East). This loan has been obtained under the standard terms and conditions of the Bank and will be repaid in 24 years including a grace period of 4 years. The scheme under this project will be implemented during 1997-2000. A tender has already been floated in October, 1996 and the trial project will begin in the 2nd half of 1997.

Committee on Outstanding Dues

4124. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of Secretaries has worked out the modalities for recovery of huge outstanding dues of Railways form NTPC, DESU and other SEBs;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal along with present status of outstanding dues, Public Sector Undertaking-wise and extent of back-log accumulated over the last three years;

(c) whether the problem was reviewed in depth in the past at the highest level and details of the steps/ remedial action suggested and implemented as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the report of the panel is likely to be made available and pending/submission of report, financial relief sought by the Railways to overcome resource crunch is extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As per the decision taken by the Cabinet on 13.8.96 the matter about recovery of outstanding dues of Railways from NTPC, DESU and Other SEBs has been referred to Committee of Secretaries for working out the modalities to recover the old oustanding dues. This report has not been received.

The back-log of outstandings accummulated over the last three years is as under :

(Figs. in crores)

Year	NTPC	DESU	Other SEBs	Total
1.4.94	499.18	67.07	348.04	914.29
1.4.95	554.47	79.37	197.25	831.09
1.4.96	675.88	97.94	121.03	894.85

(c) Yes, Sir. Regular efforts were made by Chairman, Railway Board/Minister for Railways who took the matter with Ministry of Finance, Power, Home and Chief Minister of Delhi. Ministry of Railways proposed that (i) In order to stop fresh accrual, movement of coal to Power Houses of all SEBs including BTPS and DESU be permitted only on pre-payment of freight; (ii) For clearing past oustanding dues, it was suggested that certain amounts be adjusted from the budgetory support given to the Ministry of Power and to the Government of Delhi. The alternative of setting off the dividend payable by Railways to the general revenue against the dues from BTPS and DESU, was also suggested.

As a result of efforts made by the Ministry of Railways, the matter was discussed in the Meeting of Cabinet held on 13.8.96. The following decisions were taken in this Meeting :

(i) The Cabinet approve, in principle, the proposal that coal may be transported to Power Houses by the Railways only on pre-payment of freight and decided that this may be implemented w.e.f. Ist Oct., 1996.

(ii) The issue regarding the outstanding freight charges be referred to the Committee of Secretaries to examine the manner in which the dues could be liquidated.

As regards Item (i) above, the scheme of pre-payment for carriage of coal consignments to all Power Houses has been imposed w.e.f. 1.10.96. But this decision has been deferred in case of Badarpur Thermal Power Station of NTPC temporarily for a period upto 31.12.96.

As regards decision of the Cabinet at Item (ii) above, the matter has been referred to the Committee of Secretaries for study.

(d) Ministry of Railways is not aware of constitution of such panel.

[Translation]

Post Offices in U.P.

4125. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branch post offices, sub post offices and extradepartmental post offices sanctioned during each of the last three years in the hilly regions of Almora, Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether these post offices have started functioning;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices sanctioned during the last three years in Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh is 3 and 4 respectively. Details are as follows :

S. No.	Year	Number of Departmental Sub Post Offices	Number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office	Location
1.	1993-94	-	6	*Almora* 1. Syu[illegible] 2. Chaumola *Pithoragarh* 3 Bagoti 4 Jamku 5 Duni 6 Samkot
2.	1994-95	-		Almora 1. Kota Giwai
3.	1995-96	-	-	-

(b) Yes, Sir. All have started functioning except Kota Giwai in District Almora.

(c) and (d). The Post Office at Kota Giwai has been sanctioned recently and shall be opened by 28.2.97.